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The best offense is a good defense, as demonstrated by ASES students last week. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

MH looks into reduced household garbage bag limits

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden Hills township staff will investigate the possibility of reducing residents' garbage bag limit.

Council heard Feb. 8 during its regular meeting about possible changes to landfill site user identification cards and cottage kits. And, with the changes, it was suggested bag limits be reduced to better encourage recycling.

Mayor Bob Carter said some more data would be prudent before such changes are hoisted upon residents and cottagers.

Chelsea Cosh, the township's waste facilities manager, said policy has been updated to include recent administrative changes that have been implemented and to enforce

see LESS page 2

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Less bags encourages better recycling: McKelvey

from page 1

garbage bag allotment in accordance with the municipal waste bylaw.

“Right now residents can bring three bags of garbage, but it’s not easily tracked by our attendants because there is no card to mark off how many residents have brought in,” she said. “Through staffing changes, they can’t enforce this if they’re not familiar that individual had come in the day before.”

Cosh said the township could realize some new revenue from residents paying to have excess bags dumped.

“It also helps to encourage residents to recycle and sort in an attempt to reduce their garbage coming into the site,” Cosh said.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey wondered if this was the proper time to change the residential garbage bag limit.

“I think in the past there was a three-bag limit because there was no way to track,” she said. “And people would take their parents’ garbage with them or their neighbour’s garbage with them.”

If the municipality is going to implement a punch card, McKelvey said she believes it’s time to change the bag limit down to two bags a week.

“Which then also encourages better recycling,” she said.

Carter said he hauls his refuse to the Ingoldsby site. Often there’s a single attendant who is tending to three or four tasks at the same time because somebody is trying to dump some brush and somebody else has some recycled metal.

“You have the fear that the time involved in dealing with these cards is going to be that doable for one person or will it cause untoward delays,” Carter said. “Sometimes, particularly mid-day on a Saturday, it gets pretty crowded from time to time.”

Cosh said the landfill site attendants are required to check the waste disposal card regardless to ensure the resident has a valid card.

“They also are required to do an inspection of the materials coming to make sure that all of our policies are adhered to such as clear bags and to make sure that nothing that isn’t permitted to come in is coming into the site,” she said.

And that’s a minor extra task on the employee to mark the disposal card, she said.

“I don’t see it being a large administrative burden compared to what they’re already currently doing,” Cosh said.

“I understand what you’re saying,” Carter said. “In practice, it really hasn’t been happening that way in the last little while other than the flashing of the blue card from 100 feet away.”

Carter said he’s willing to give it a try, but “there could be some issues.”

Coun. Ivan Ingram said he agreed with McKelvey’s suggestion that the bag limit be lowered. He suggested staff take a look at how many bags other municipalities of comparable size allow for their residents.

Cosh said the program could start July 1 with the waste disposal cards distributed with the final tax bills to property owners.

“So the card will be in effect for one year,” she said.

Then there’s a hope for a transition to digital cards, she said.

“If for some reason we weren’t able to implement that in time, we will issue another physical card that would be in place for another calendar year,” Cosh said.

Coun. Pam Sayne said the township previously had a program by which households had a number of tags for garbage. And she wondered how the card system would compare to the former tags.

“At this time, I think for the next year, I would like to see us stay with the number of bags,” Sayne said. “We have different sized households.”

Seasonal cottagers in the area are provided a flyer that shows transfer station and landfill site hours and explains the municipality’s recycling program and how to sort their trash.

And they’ll get the one-time waste disposal card, she said.

“That card allows any holder to bring in up to three bags of garbage at no charge,” Cosh said. “Anything beyond that would be chargeable.”

Those are one-time use cards that are purchased by the registered property owners who issue them to tenants.

Sayne said some households may not deliver their garbage weekly. Perhaps they visit the landfill once a month.

“I think if you have it where you’ve got so many bags per year, that makes up for it,” Sayne said.

“This card is similar to curbside collection,” Cosh said. “However, it’s better than curbside collection because it gives you flexibility. So if you were away for a week, you don’t miss out on putting out your garbage. If you accumulate it for a couple weeks, then you can take those garbage bags in and they’ll mark off how many you’re bringing in.”

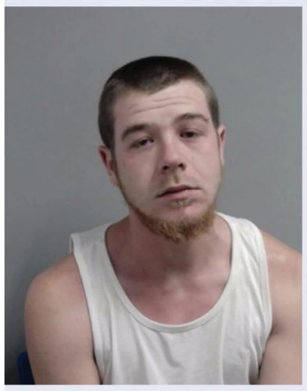
Ingram said his family of five people don’t build a single bag of garbage in a week.

“It’s all recycling,” he said. “Bags and bags of recycling so I don’t think it’s out of the realm of reasonableness to shorten (the limit) to two, personally.”

Carter said a report and recommendation from municipal staff is needed to get the facts before such a dramatic change is implemented. Ingram suggested a one-year trial period be started so staff can better judge the proposed program.

“It’s not that big a deal for one year, I don’t think, really,” he said.

WANTED by Ontario Provincial Police



Michael GUNN

- **28 years old**
- **6’1” (185 cm), thin build**
- **Short brown hair, light-brown partial beard**
- **Blue eyes**
- **Tattoo of the Canadian flag with a cross on the right forearm**
- **Tattoo of a female on the left forearm**

If you have information regarding the whereabouts of Michael GUNN, please do not approach and contact police immediately at 1-888-310-1122.

OPP respond to disturbance in Minden

A warrant for arrest has been issued for 28-year-old Michael GUNN of Minden, for robbery using firearm, aggravated assault, and possession of weapon for dangerous purpose in connection with an ongoing investigation in the Township of Minden Hills.

On February 9, 2024, shortly after 4:30 a.m., the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to an assault and residential robbery with a weapon on Parkside Street in Minden. The victim was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

GUNN is believed to possess a weapon and is considered a potential threat to public safety. If seen, call 9-1-1 and do not approach.

He is described as 6’1” (185 cm) with a thin build, short brown hair, light-brown partial beard, and blue eyes. He has a tattoo of the Canadian flag with a cross on the right forearm, and a tattoo of a female on the left forearm.

The investigation is ongoing by the Haliburton Highlands OPP Crime Unit.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident or the whereabout of Michael GUNN is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to $2,000.

Submitted

Haliburton OPP recover firearm

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) executed an arrest warrant that resulted in the seizure of a firearm in Minden Hills.

During the evening of Feb. 7, 2024, the Haliburton Highlands OPP crime unit with the assistance from members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU) and Emergency Response Team (ERT), executed an arrest warrant for a wanted person at a residence in Minden Hills. The individual was located and arrested without incident and a firearm was seized.

The arrested person was charged with:

- Assault - two counts
- Choking - two counts
- Careless storage of a firearm
- Possession of a firearm without a licence

This person was held for a bail hearing.

No further details will be provided in order to protect the identity of the victim.

The investigation is ongoing. Investigators are asking that anyone with any information and have not spoken to police to contact Haliburton Highlands OPP at 705-286-1431 or the OPP Provincial Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122.

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New CEO/Chief librarian appointed

Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Andrea Brown as its new chief executive officer and chief librarian. Andrea brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role, having previously served as deputy CEO/Public Services manager at HCPL.

Originally from Stoney Creek, Ontario, Andrea graduated from Trent University and earned her Master of Library & Information Studies (MLIS) at the University of British Columbia. Prior to joining HCPL, Andrea honed her skills and expertise at the Vancouver Public Library (VPL), where she held various roles including branch head at several VPL locations. Notably, during her tenure as VPL's Early Years assistant manager, Andrea coordinated the creation of a provincially funded $50,000+ Reading Tree early literacy book project, which received accolades including a City of Vancouver Staff Innovation Award.

With 18 years of experience in public libraries, including 10 years in supervisory roles, Andrea brings a deep understanding of library operations and a passion for public service. She embraces all that Haliburton County has to offer and looks forward to serving her community with enthusiasm.

"Andrea Brown's appointment as CEO/Chief Librarian is effective immediately. The HCPL Board and staff are excited to welcome Andrea into her new role and look forward to the continued success and growth of Haliburton County Public Library under her leadership" said David O'Brien, HCPL board chair.

Submitted

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RESPONSE

Shhhhh: Granicus gets contract for STR monitoring, says Dysart

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County had just one response for its request for proposals to monitor and ensure compliance by short-term rental property owners to proposed new rules for those accommodations.

But the company that did respond to the RFP is well versed in the field.

"It (the proposal) was duly vetted by the evaluation team," said Stephen Stone, the county's planning director.

That team was comprised of county staff and staff from each of the lower tier municipalities who will hitch their wagons to the proposed short-term rental (STR) bylaw and its accompanying municipal accommodation tax (MAT).

"We had a good opportunity to look at the proposal in detail," he said.

That single proposal was ultimately accepted.

Stone didn't name the company in his report to county council. It isn't a secret. The Township of Dysart formally accepted their proposal during its regular council meeting Jan. 23, the day before the upper tier council heard from Stone.

Granicus Canada Holdings will ensure short-term rental property owners comply with rules that will regulate the industry in the county.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she was disappointed that Granicus wasn't named in Stone's report, despite it being widely known among proponents of STRs.

"I'm out of my league with regards to procurement policies, but I believe that would be a breach of the process that we would go and divulge any information at this time," Stone said. "I'll leave it at that."

"If you've done even a tertiary glance of enforcement on short-term rentals within the province of Ontario, the proponent's name comes up quite regularly," said Scott Ovell, the county's economic development and tourism director. "That would be my belief that people are just making that assumption that's the company that was selected."

Again, Dysart's council named the company the day before.

Over the life of the three-year contract, Dysart will pay $131,065. Highlands East, Algonquin Highlands, and Minden Hills will each pay $60,854.

"They do come with a fair bit of experience," Stone said.

Indeed.

Dysart's council meeting agenda had a report that explained Granicus is the outfit that provides STR services to some nearby communities.

> "
>
> If you've done even a tertiary glance of enforcement on short–term rentals within the province of Ontario, the proponent's name comes up quite regularly
>
> — **SCOTT OVELL, ECONOMIC DEVELOP–MENT AND TOURISM DIRECTOR**
>
> "

The company handles STR services for more than 500 cities and counties across North America including some of Haliburton's neighbours such as Huntsville, Lake of Bays, Ramara, Orillia, Georgian Bay, Collingwood, Tiny, and Penetanguishen.

"So that was good to see," Stone said.

Granicus will be responsible for surveillance monitoring of STR operators on vacation host websites.

They will handle registration and compliance monitoring. They will notify noncompliant STR operators of infractions and the resulting consequences and communicate with municipal staff about noncompliant STR operators.

Granicus will also be responsible for collecting the much-contested municipal accommodation tax (MAT). And they will follow up with hosts who are not remitting fees and notify municipalities of those delinquent hosts. The contract also entails that a phone line and online portal be established for customer service questions.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

Archie Stouffer Elementary School presents their 1st annual student exhibit with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. The exhibit will be on display in the Gallery Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm, until March 30. All are welcome, admission by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

Family Day fun at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Monday, February 19 from 12 – 2 pm. Pop by for hands-on activities, check out our latest exhibits, find a treasure at the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library Book Sale and grab a delicious bowl of chili or a hot dog donated and served by the Rotary Club of Minden. All are welcome, admission by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

FAMILY DAY WASTE DISPOSAL SITE HOURS

All waste disposal sites will be open on the Family Day holiday Monday (February 19)and operating on Sunday Hours.

FREE PUBLIC SKATING - FAMILY DAY (FEB. 19)

There will be free public skating on Monday February 19, 2024 from 10:00am – 11:50am at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena, sponsored by Shayne and Tammy McKelvey.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 2024 BUDGET

The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills is preparing its 2024 Municipal Draft Budget. These meetings will be held in the Minden Hills Council Chambers located on 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON. Meetings to commence at 9:00 AM. Any change in location, date, or time will be advertised. Council commenced its overview of the Draft Budget and Business Plan at the January 18, February 1 and 5, 2024 Special Council Meetings.

Council will consider the 2024 Draft Budget and Business Plan at several upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Continued Budget Deliberations – follow-up items from previous budget meeting discussions.
- Tuesday, March 26, 2024: Potential date to Adopt and finalize the 2024 Budget.

Please note that dates are subject to change and are dependent on deliberation discussion and direction of Council. Supported material including the Budget Book will be provided on the agenda package located on the CivicWeb portal site.

If you have any questions, please contact: Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer
(705) 286-1260 Ext 504

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Administration Clerical Assistant

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/careers/ for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

* February 29 – Regular Council Meeting * March 14 – Regular Council Meeting * March 28 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx . Visit our website for more information.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

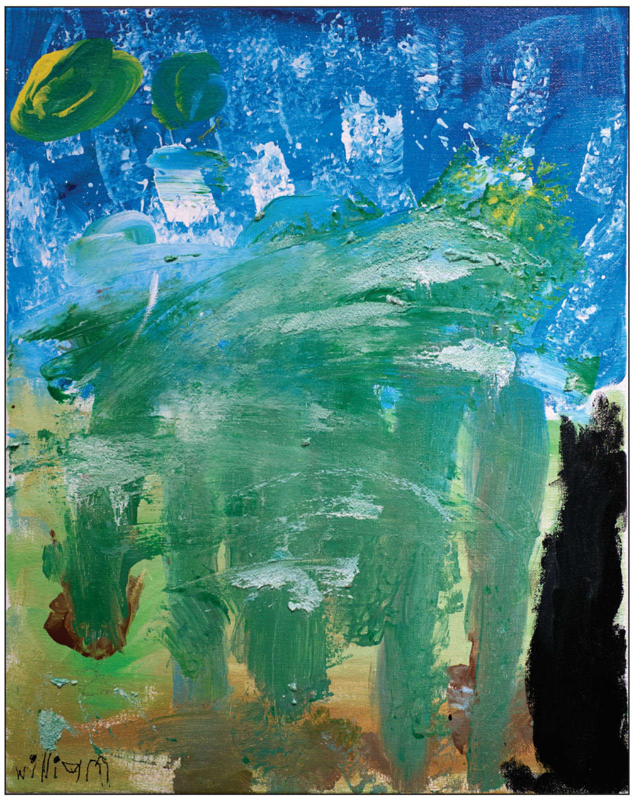
When a winter storm is expected, all municipalities have a plan. Drivers need to have their own plan. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It's also safer for drivers.

WINTER PARKING

From November 1 to April 30, 2024 overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

Shannon Kelly welcomes the crowd that came out to support young artists from Archie Stouffer Elementary School at the reception of the 1st Annual Student Art Exhibition at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery this weekend. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*



William Thomas, Winner of the Jury's Choice Award Jk-1 writes: “When I think of Minden I think of the forest. There is so many beautiful forests in Minden. I love going in the bush with my Dad, we like to explore, we are forests guys.”

Student art exhibition showcases young local talent

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Archie Stouffer Elementary School and Agnes Jamieson Gallery were ecstatic to showcase local young artist’s talent this past weekend at the opening reception of the 1st Annual Student Art Exhibition.

There was a wide range of artists that participated. Submissions were open from kindergarten to grade 8. 22 artworks by students were submitted for the exhibition.

“We really hope the community will come down and support the arts,” says April Austen, member of ASES Council, “this will showcase what the kids are doing at home and bring the community all together.” April Austen was instrumental in bringing this exhibition to life, as well as Shannon Kelly, Manager of Cultural Services.

“School council was instrumental in this,” assures Austen, “we saw a need and try to help out where there is a need.”

A large crowd turned up for the exhibition’s reception including artists, their families, and other art aficionados from the community.

The exhibition included several awards in a variety of categories including Jury’s Choice Award by grade, Jury’s Choice Artwork that best reflects the theme, and a People’s Choice Award. The People’s Choice Award will be voted on by exhibition visitors and will be awarded when the exhibition ends on March 31st.

The exhibition’s jury included Shannon Kelly, Manager of Cultural Services, Robert Wong, Cultural Program Coordinator, and Nadine Papp, staff member of Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

This exhibition is intended to be an annual collaborative exhibition between Archie Stouffer Elementary School and Agnes Jamieson Gallery. They are excited for kids to have the opportunity to showcase their artworks and allow the community to support young artists.

Here are some artist’s statements:

“I painted the Gull River because I feel it is a sign of Minden. Whenever I’ve been somewhere as soon as I see the river, I know I am in Minden. I know I am home. No matter what happens, no matter what changes the river will always be there.”

-Leah Alder, grade 7

“Minden means community and connection. Minden means acceptance. Minden means friendship. Minden means love.”

-Emily Newell, grade 4

A young artist accepts the Jury's Choice Award at the reception of the 1st Annual Student Art Exhibition.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Board Member Recruitment for 2024/2025

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care at the Haliburton site), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board’s Standing Committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

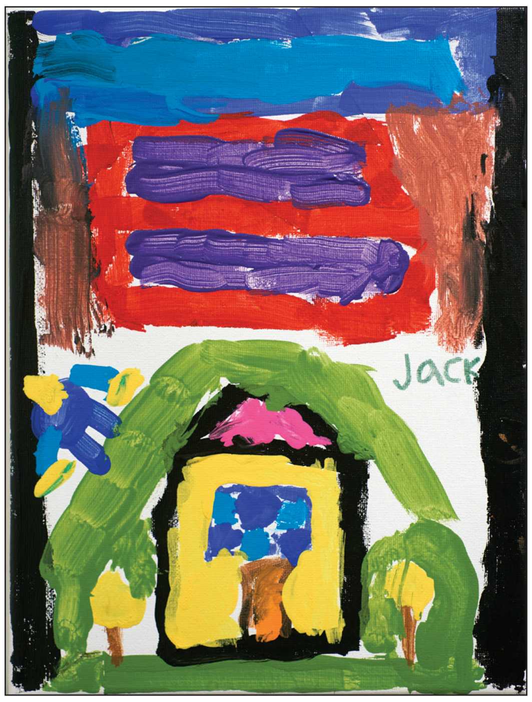
Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

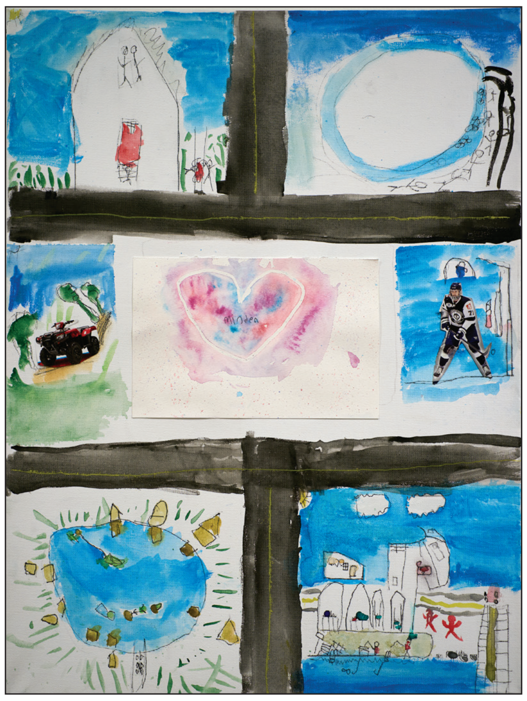
How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting “HHHS Board Recruitment” in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **March 1, 2024**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:

Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527





MH sets days for free outdoor ice skating

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden Hills residents will get three free days of outdoor skating.

The Community Service Department and Minden Hills Fire Department work together to facilitate the Dawson Hamilton Outdoor Rink at the Cultural Centre each winter.

Once the rink is in working order it is maintained by volunteers.

Candace McGuigan, the director of community services, said the department's staff had initially hoped to start the outdoor rink at around Christmas. But the weather wasn't conducive for outside rink construction.

The department was also short on staff due to sickness and other scheduling difficulties, and that further delayed work on the rink.

"We need to be able to designate two staff members out there," she said. "It does take a couple of days to get out there."

The Dawson Hamilton Memorial Outdoor Rink will be open to free skating on Family Day, Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. until noon. It is sponsored by Shayne and Councillor Tammy McKelvey.

Outdoor enthusiasts will be able to lace skates March 11 from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. That day's outing will be sponsored by the municipality's Department of Community Services.

Skaters will also be able to venture to the outdoor rink on the final day of March break, March 15, from noon until 1 p.m. That hour will also be sponsored by the township department.

"We just need Mother Nature to cooperate," McGuigan said.

Tapscott Lopes Park in Dorset

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is pleased to announce its acquisition of the Dorset Pavilion and Community Park in the hamlet of Dorset. The park has been gifted to the Township by cottagers Don Tapscott C.M and Ana Lopes C.M. and has been renamed "Tapscott Lopes Park" in recognition of its donors.

"We know how important this property is to the residents of Dorset and we are so happy we've been able to continue its legacy as a public space and crucial community asset, through this generous donation" said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen. "Along with the completion of the Dorset Recreation Centre rehabilitation project and the return of Haliburton County Public Library services, it's an extremely exciting year for Dorset."

"We have decided that the Township of Algonquin Highlands is a trustworthy partner for this gift, and we are delighted that the community and surrounding districts will continue to enjoy this much beloved facility," said Ms. Lopes.

As part of the gift agreement, the Township will create an Indigenous Garden in the park in collaboration with Indigenous stakeholders.

"We congratulate Mayor Danielsen, and Council on their leadership is making this partnership happen," said Mr. Tapscott. "It's so exciting to see elected representatives put the interests of their citizens first" he said.

An official opening of the park and celebration will be held this summer.

Submitted

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A Valentine's Day pondering

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

I AM A hopeless romantic.

Some may call me a sucker that falls for clever marketing.

Jewelry, chocolates, flowers, cards.

Do I get one of everything, or will they want one of each?

My Instagram feed shows me all these celebrities that are eating at these fancy restaurants in the big city with cloth napkins.

But is that really our style? Would we really feel comfortable in a fancy schmancy place like that?

For this dilemma, I would like to take this time to thank Geoffrey Chaucer, who, in 1382 published *Parlement of Foules* which connected the idea of Valentine's Day with those in love.

In my interview with Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout this past week, Maria said that trust is the most important quality to look for in a partner.

I concur.

Trust, to me, penetrates throughout all aspects of a relationship.

I trust in my partner that they will tell me anything that is bothering them, even if I am the root of the issue.

I trust that they will be safe in their day-to-day life and come home to keep me warm at night.

I trust that our son is well fed, safe, and reassured that we both love him very much, even if he is nocturnal, cold blooded, and a gecko.

Without trust, I truly do not think a relationship could last. Perhaps it is my anxious brain, but the what-ifs would be too great for me to handle if I did not have complete trust in my partner.

Luckily for my bank account, my partner's love language is not gift-giving, but quality time.

This is a pretty sweet deal. I just have to hang out with my best friend and they will love me for it? I'm in!

As a Gen Z-er, the stereotypical joke of referring to your closest partner as your 'old ball and chain' is something very foreign to me.

However, it seems as though relationships in general have changed throughout the years.

The highest divorce rate in Canada was in 1987 and the rate is steadily decreasing.

From what I have learned from my own family's relationships, many marriages in the past were about survival. Without a husband and kids, you would be considered a failure.

That being said, there are less and less marriages today.

Is it the economy, or are people uglier nowadays?

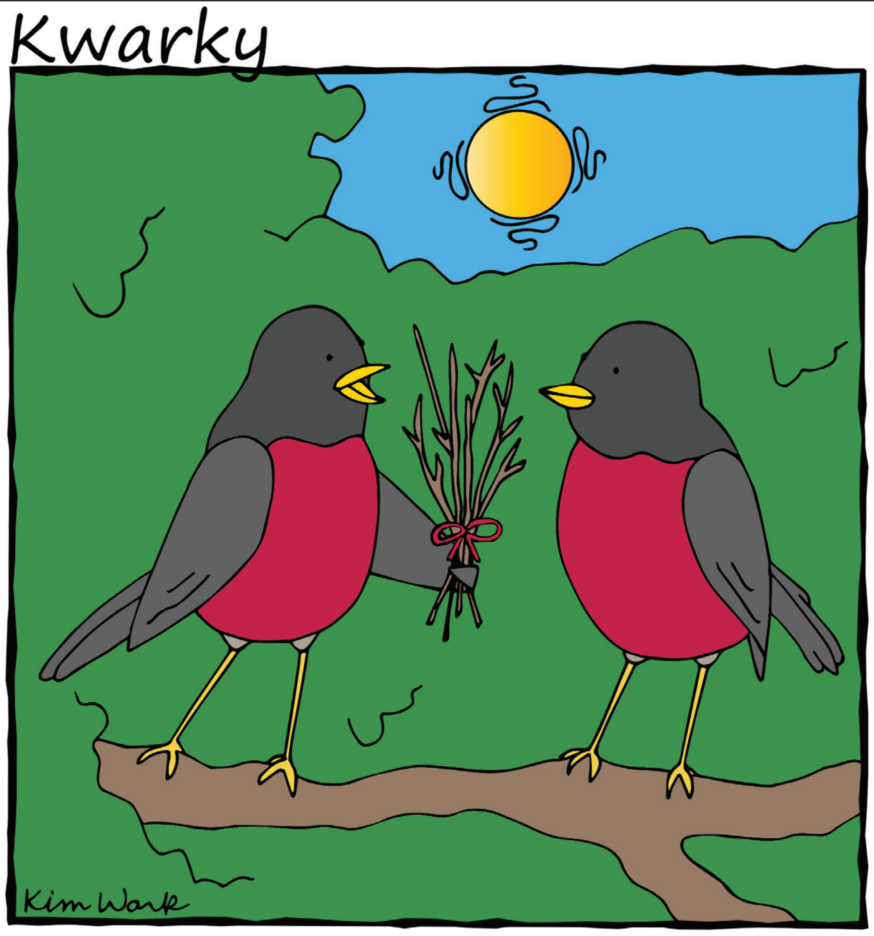
With changing social acceptance of common law partnerships, I think that the younger generations of Canadians do not see a clear reason to get married. Especially with some venues costing over $40,000 to. I know that my partner and I have not gotten engaged simply because we cannot afford it as recent graduates.

With that all being said, I am still taking my special sweetheart out to dinner (I am also going to buy chocolates but SHHHhh keep that a secret). Nothing fancy schmancy, but a restaurant that I know they will love.

Treat yourself and your partner the way you both deserve to be treated. Cater to their love language, buy them something if you know they'll love it and you have the coinage to spare.

Or just simply, tell someone (perhaps even a friend) that you love them.

Happy Valentine's day!



"I made you a gift this year."

Perspectives on ice

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I ONCE SPENT a week in early spring in Leesburg, Virginia, along the Potomac River. The weather was lovely too, so when I wasn't working, I spent my time there enjoying the woodland trails that lined the river. The funny thing was every American that walked by looked at me and muttered, "Must be Canadian."

I couldn't figure out why, until someone pointed out that while everyone else was wearing a winter coat, mitts, and a woollen hat, I seemed very comfortable in a tee shirt. I honestly believe any Canadian would have. Heck, I felt overdressed.

This, and the recent weather we have been having, has got me thinking that we are instantly recognizable as Canadians not just because of our geographic location and innate politeness, but also because of the way we handle snow and ice.

Let's examine this as it pertains to ice.

I think we can all agree that, if an American from anywhere but their northernmost states were to attempt to walk down any icy slope, they would quickly attain speeds of about 90 kilometres per hour. But rather than enjoy the exhilarating experience, they would probably yell questions about whether Obamacare covers abrupt stops.

Now let's consider the case of a Canadian descending the same slope at the same speed. The difference would be that we would be calmly texting a friend and perhaps even sipping on a Tim Horton's coffee – without spilling a drop.

There is no denying it. We are just naturally more comfortable on ice. That's why ice fishing, hockey, figure skating and winter driving are our national sports. It's also why every Canadian's dream is to own a Zamboni.

All this is just part of our national identity. In fact, the further north you go, the more words there are for ice. While there is no real agreement on the number, most linguists concede that our Inuit people have many words to describe ice.

I have also discovered that the older you get, the more words you have for ice too – though none of those words are suitable for print.

In the southern US, however, they only have two words – "ice" and "ouch." And, if some of my favourite YouTube videos are to be believed, these are often used consecutively. South of the border, an ice storm will shut down entire cities and wreak havoc on road networks. Here it will cause us to get our skates or ice augers sharpened.

The phrase "ice out" is another example of how our two countries view things differently. In Canada, we celebrate the phrase since it means that winter has finally relinquished its grip and spring has arrived. Meanwhile, in the US, "ice out" means you have to go to another gas station.

I know we Canadians still sand and salt our walkways and roads. But I believe this is mostly because holding bags of salt and sand is as close as most of us are going to get to a southern beach on the ocean in winter.

Honestly, the only reason I sand and salt my driveway and walkway is in case I am ever visited by an American. They may have very few words for ice, but they have at least 36 words for lawsuit.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

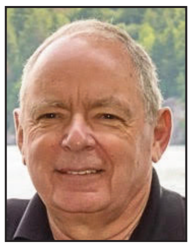
Ban dangerous hockey violence

THE FIGHTING in hockey debate is raging again, intensified by a recent ugly Pacific Junior Hockey League brawl.

A player grabbed an opposing team's goaltender in a guillotine choke, causing him to pass out and collapse onto the ice. The goalie's team said he suffered a severe injury but was recovering at home.

The league has said it is investigating the incident.

Choking someone is a criminal offence and B.C.'s health minister has said "criminal actions need to be taken care of by criminal processes," regardless of where they occur. Police have said they are not investigating the incident.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Meanwhile, hockey fights are increasing. Certainly in the NHL.

It's difficult to confirm accurate figures for the number of NHL fights each season.

However, Encyclopedia Britannica's ProCon.org reports that in the early 1960s there was a fight in 20 per cent of all NHL games.

That percentage grew to 100 in the 1980s but started to fall dramatically in the 1990s after the league instituted a major penalty for instigating a fight. Various sources say the current percentage is 17 to 20, but I believe it's much higher.

There have been 97 fights in 368 games during the first quarter of the current NHL season. My math shows that's roughly 27 per cent.

If the current fighting rate continues, this season will end having seen 345 fights, an increase of 11 over last year.

Fighting remains in the junior leagues despite efforts to eliminate it. HockeyFights.com reports that in the first quarter of this season the Western Hockey League had 119 fights and the Ontario Hockey League 75.

The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League had only eight fights during the first quarter after introducing game suspensions for fighting.

When polled, many fans favour banning fighting in hockey. They believe it takes away from the skills and speed of the game, glorifies violence and causes serious injuries. It shows lack of discipline and self-control.

Many others, however, say fighting makes the game safer by holding players accountable. They say fighting is a deterrent to hurting star players because aggressors know there will be payback.

A main argument favouring hockey fighting is that it adds entertainment value and brings more fans to the rinks. In other words, fighting brings in more money.

Another argument supporting fighting is that allowing players to fight lessens the likelihood of more dangerous play. Fighting lets players let go of frustrations that otherwise might make them dish out dirty hits, severe boarding, slashing or other dangerous retaliations.

No matter how you feel about fighting in hockey, one thing is clear: there is still too much dangerous violence in the game. That Pacific League chokehold incident is an example. So is the incident at the end of last Saturday's Toronto Maple Leafs-Ottawa Senators game.

Toronto had pulled its goalie when Senators' Ridly Greig got a breakaway and took a hard slap shot into the empty net. Some players and fans saw the slap shot as unnecessary and a show of disrespect.

Leafs' Morgan Rielly apparently did. He chased Greig then cross-checked him across the head, starting a game-ending fight.

A cross-check to the head can cause serious injury and Rielly faces a possible lengthy playing suspension. Hopefully he will get one. That type of dangerous violence should never be tolerated.

Especially disturbing is the Leafs' reaction to the incident. Leafs' coach Sheldon Keefe and some players supported Rielly.

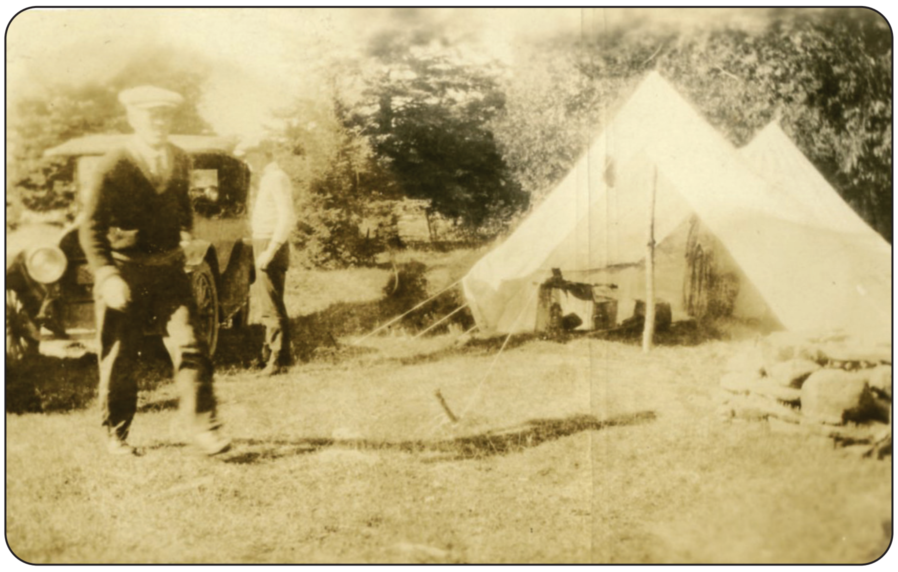
"I thought (Rielly's reaction) was appropriate," Leafs' coach Sheldon Keefe told reporters. "He's reacting to a play. Their player has the right to react in that moment, and our players have the right to react. That's the emotion of the game."

Sorry, Sheldon, no player has "the right" to lay that kind of dangerous violence on another. Shots to the head are never appropriate. Not for any reason.

That type of thinking is going to ruin our national game. We need to get rid of it, and the people who continue to advocate it.

It's bad enough that Keefe is leading the Leafs through another season of misery. Now he's promoting violence that risks the health, safety and careers of players.

Minden Memories



A lovely day of camping at 12 Mile Lake. The photo was possibly taken by the Baker Family (Stanley Irvine Baker, George Angus Baker, and Richard Baker). /Photo submitted by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the Editor

Reader fears increased littering

To the Editor,

I sadly write to you today with a "not our requirement, not our problem".

As a homeowner, employee and family in Minden Hills, I am also a patron of Tim Hortons. Today I have learned of their shocking and blatant destruction to the environment.

I commented on the removal of the waste bins at the Minden location by pointing out that there would be a large amount of other people that will just throw their waste on the ground now. After being shrugged off it is a week later and there is litter from one end of the driveway thru to the other, and a few cups in my vehicle.

Again I mentioned the environmental impact this time and was told that "after the renovation in Haliburton it will be the same, the garbage cans are no longer mandatory."

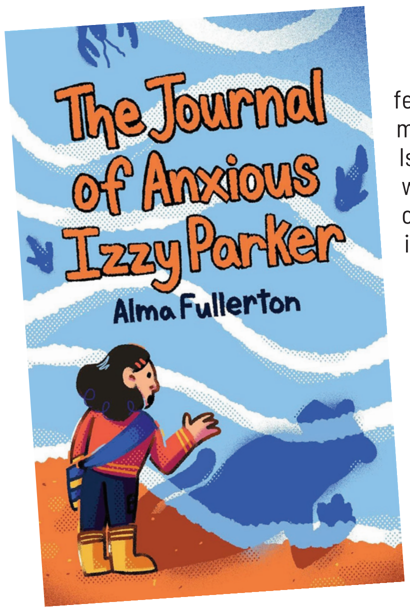
This is a multimillion dollar enterprise that prides itself in caring for people and the environment and this is a huge backward step.

I know that the people in this county will have a problem with Mr. Horton's new "Always fresh garbage" policy and the garbage cans will return. Also…what is/was the plan with the old cans…or are they just going to be thrown out themselves?

Thanks.

Bill Burnett,
Minden

HCPL's Book of the Week



Eight-year-old Izzy Parker's biggest problem is feeling anxious and afraid. Her mom's decision to move them across the country to Prince Edward Island didn't help. Izzy worries she will say the wrong thing or laugh at the wrong time, and none of the kids will want to be her friend. Sometimes, it's so hard to be Izzy that she can't breathe.

In her honest, awkward, and anxious journal, Izzy writes down the story of her life and how she is trying to be a little less afraid.

Recommended for ages eight to 10, *The Journal of Anxious Izzy Parker* by Alma Fullerton is nominated for the 2024 Silver Birch Express Award® . Available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library..

Trust is the secret to 65 years of marriage

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

"We were neighbours," says Maria Van Lieshout, with a smile.

"Actually it was very simple, my Dad and her dad were the best of friends," said Lawrence Van Lieshout. "So we knew the family, of course they knew us because we were only a quarter kilometre away or half a kilometre away."

"Not even that," said Maria.

"When I was born, her mother took me for getting baptized because we were Catholic," explained Lawrence. "The reverse happened when Maria was born, my mother took her."

"We grew up on a farm, and I married a farm girl." said Lawrence, with a smile.

Lawrence and Maria's love story started as neighbours growing up in their hometown within North Brabant in the Netherlands.

"We were born in 1934. We were six years old when the war started," said Lawrence. "The big families, like there was eight in her family, 11 in our family, there was 14 in our neighbour's family. So to go through the war when things are rationed and under the German regime, that was very difficult to the parents. Very difficult."

"We started dating, I think when we were 20, and we got married when we were 23," explained Lawrence,. "Dating is different than today. I was lucky if I saw her on the weekend maybe."

Lawrence and Maria were lucky enough to get married twice, within the same year.

"We got married twice. In Holland, for the Catholic church, that doesn't count," explained Maria. "Well it counts, because you sign documents there, except we were trying to immigrate after the war."

With both Lawrence and Maria having relatives already in Canada, they decided to immigrate to Canada as a newlywed couple. With a ship leaving for Halifax on April 18, Lawrence and Maria had to have all documents in place beforehand.

"So we married actually…" trailed off Lawrence.

"February 20," answered Maria.

"We went to the city hall, signed the documents and went home and did our own thing again," explained Lawrence. "Our official wedding was with the Church and the celebrations."

"And that was the 12th of April," finishes Maria.

On April 18th, 1957, Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout departed the Netherlands in search of greater economic opportunities in Canada. After boarding the Rÿdeme, the newlywed couple landed at Pier 21 in Halifax after eight days of sailing. Immediately, the pair boarded a ship to Hoboken, New York to visit Lawrence's brother.

After their visit, they boarded a train from New York to come back to Cornwall.

"It was so strange, my brother dropped us off in Baltimore. We couldn't speak a word of [English]. So we had a tag hanging on us," explained Lawrence, "saying I am Lawrence Destination: Cornwall. They picked us up like UPS."

see THERE'S page 9

Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout embrace with big smiles, excited for their 66th anniversary this April. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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“There’s gotta be a happy medium”

from page 8

Despite the language barrier, the two luckily ended up on the train to Cornwall. Lawrence and Maria moved to Canada with sponsorship from his brother.

Lawrence said that Canada wanted young men after losing so many soldiers in the war, similar to the importance of migrant workers today.

Going back to their roots, Lawrence and Maria’s first house in Canada was in Eamer’s Corners near Cornwall. He worked on the farm making $100 per month, but had their pay deducted by the landlord with things such as utilities. Their first house did not even have an indoor toilet.

“We were very blessed. I think we did the right thing. I know it was tough, coming through the war. My brothers, my sisters had come to Canada. it’s nice, if you want to farm you could start a farm there,” she said.

After moving to Martintown, their first son was born.

“When Wilfred was born, I didn’t speak a word of English,” Maria said. “Because we didn’t have a T.V. or a radio, we had nothing, so where could I learn from?”

In retaliation to Lawrence missing work for the birth of Wilfred, the landlord deducted $5 from their paycheque. The pair decided to leave after that.

“We then moved to Lancaster. We found an old crappy house. Worked seven days a week, you never had time off and you would get always the awful jobs, you know,” Lawrence said with a laugh. “Like going in the silo and cutting all the frozen stuff out the chute. Clean out the gutters and all the manure. You could work all day shoveling it.”

Lawrence and Maria can remember towns that existed around Cornwall before they were removed and flooded by the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Lawrence and Maria had to live in Canada for five years before receiving Canadian citizenship.

“The only thing we had was a bicycle, so usually, relationships would be within 10, 15 kilometres of where you’d live cause you had no way of getting there.

“My Dad said, ‘if you want to get a good marriage then you’ve got to start off with a good foundation and have as many things in common as you possibly can,’” he said.

Eventually, the Van Lieshout family lived on a farm in Pickering with their four kids, Wilfred, Henriette, Ann Marie, and Anthony.

Maria’s asthma and allergies got more severe, and their doctor suggested they move away from the farm. Somewhere with fresh air and an abundance of nature. The children’s accordion teacher let them visit his cottage. The fresh air made Maria feel better, leading the couple to want to move to Haliburton County.

While Lawrence continued to work in Ajax, he began to miss his young, growing family.

Graciously, his employer gave him a leave of absence for Lawrence to pursue a real estate license. In addition to beginning his real estate practice, Lawrence began driving school buses in Haliburton County.

Lawrence worked in real estate in the Haliburton County area for 38 years.

“I really enjoyed it,” said Lawrence. When Lawrence was around 68 years old, he sold his real estate business to his youngest son, Anthony.

“The only thing I regret, that I said to the kids,” said Lawrence, “[is] that I didn’t spend more time with you. Because for me, it was work, work, work, work, work.

“There’s gotta be a happy medium. I think it’s difficult to have both success and be with the kids.”

Their secret to such a long lasting marriage?

“Trust one another,” said Maria.

Lawrence said that it is extremely important to have something in common with your partner, be it language or religion. He says that if there are strong differences in people’s cultural backgrounds, it can quickly strain a relationship

“What is your favourite thing about Lawrence?” I asked Maria.

“Why did you ask me this question?” Maria said with a big laugh.

“I’ll tell you mine!” said Lawrence.

“You’re going say it’s because I cook all the time!” replied Maria.

“She is a beautiful, solid lady,” said Lawrence, “respectful, truly sincere, hardworking, extremely caring, did the best for the kids, supported me 100 per cent... just beautiful. I am glad you asked.”

“That I can trust him,” answered Maria with a smile. “I don’t know how to express that. I can’t put words to it.”

“We have supported each other,” said Lawrence, “And that’s what you need.”

“I am afraid that people of a younger age don’t care about one another anymore,” said Maria, “That bothers me.”

“We had a good life and a beautiful, younger life,” says Lawrence, “You had a beautiful evening, dance, and of course, there was always accordion music there. That was the way of finding your partner.”

The Van Leishouts are immensely proud of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout will be celebrating their 66th anniversary on April 12 this year.

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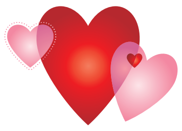

'When you know, you know'

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Love should feel safe and secure, allowing two individuals to be completely and authentically themselves.

That's how Sarah and Connor Dollo knew they were the ones for each other.

"We got married in June 2023 in Minden, just one year after we started dating," Sarah said. "Good old cliche, when you know you know. Being together felt easy since day one, it was effortless and just felt right. Neither one of us had experienced that level of immediate ease and connection in previous relationships."

In their late 20s now, the two Haliburton Highlands Secondary School grads met as Red Hawks.

"We weren't friends in high school, but Connor later confessed to always having a crush on me," Sarah laughed.

With Sarah having moved back to the Highlands during the COVID-19 pandemic, Connor saw his chance with his high school crush.

"Classic for our generation, I slid into Sarah's [Instagram] DMs when I heard she was newly single," Connor said. "I originally asked her about Pilates, figuring a mutual enjoyment of fitness would be a good ice breaker."

Sarah had just started teaching Pilates, and now owns the REFORM studio in Haliburton.

"I thought there was no way this guy was interested in Pilates, but he said if he had to go to one of my classes just to see me, he would've."

Connor did end up going to a class, and the two of them immediately knew that was it.

"I kicked off my first ever Pilates series shortly after going on my first date with him. He was a huge support in the early days of REFORM and still is, helping with backend stuff, building reformers, shelves, desks," Sarah said.

The couple said they never officially lived together before getting married.

"We lived in between both of our parents' places. Some people thought we were a bit nuts to marry without living together, but I guess that's just another ode to 'when you know, you know,'" they said.

Last Valentine's Day, they began thinking of elopement ideas.

With the blessing of both sets of parents, "We decided to just go for it," Connor said.

The elopement turned into a small, secret wedding to keep it very personal.

"We both valued the privacy of it, as neither of us thrive being the centre of attention. We also didn't like the idea of it being a production or show. For us it wasn't about the leading up events. We just wanted to get married for love, and we didn't care what it looked like," Sarah said.

They noted one of the signs at their wedding said "nothing fancy, just love."

Lost Together was chosen for their wedding song after having attended a Blue Rodeo concert together a month before getting married.

Sarah shared some of her favourite qualities in Connor.

"He is truly a shirt off your back kind of guy. He really values family," she said. "Another thing I love about him is how he makes me feel. I can literally feel my nervous system relaxing in his presence."

She said Connor brings out the truest version of herself. "I just adore him for that," she said.

Sarah and Connor Dollo got married last June with an intimate ceremony surrounded by their close friends and family. /Danielle Meredith Photography

"My favourite thing about Sarah is the way she goes out of her way to make other people smile and tries to have a positive impact on their day," Connor said.

"I can always look to her when I need some cheering up. Her energy is incomparable, which is crazy because she comes in such a small package," he laughed.

They shared some of the key elements to their successful relationship.

"Things that one lacks, the other makes up for. We are comfortable being completely honest with each other. We have similar interests and ideas for what we want our future to look like. We both value and hold great importance in family," Sarah said, and the most important, "We laugh, a lot."

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Seniors Chair Exercises

When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church,
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Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

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When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church,
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Please join us Tuesdays for cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.

Super Cash Calendar Draws

When: Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. January until October.
Where: Haliburton Legion
Three tickets pulled per night. First ticket winner receives $100, second ticket $200, and third ticket $500. Winners will be posted every month on www.haliburtonlions.com. Public is welcome to attend the draws at the Lions meetings.

Weekly Meat Rolls

When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 & 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. 5 spins for $10. The first 4 rounds are for highest and lowest score with 2 winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Charity Bake Sale

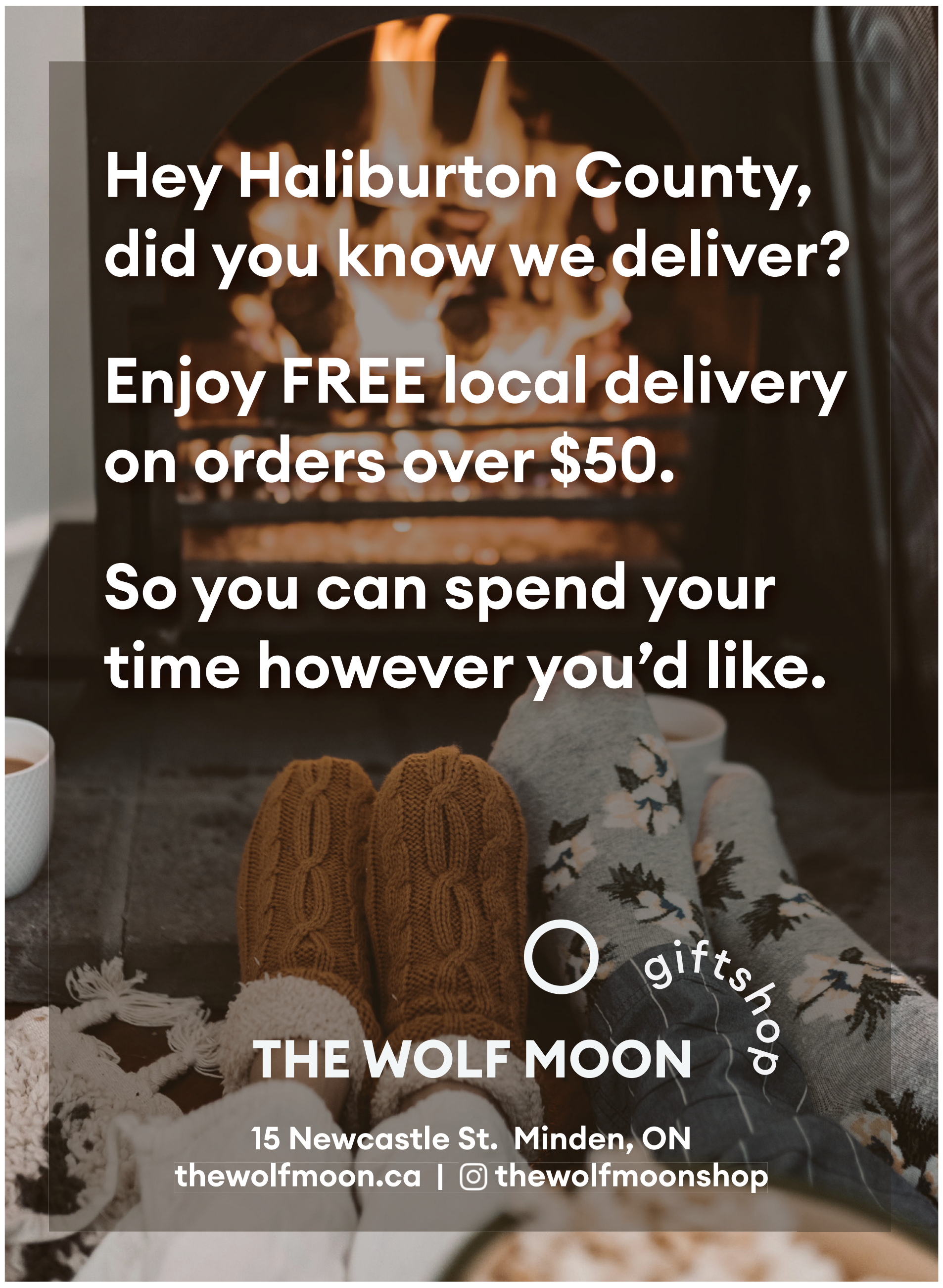
When: Feb 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Animal Hospital, 4 Booth Street
Dr. Jenn and her team at the Minden Animal Hospital will be hosting a charity bake sale on Pink Shirt Day (Kindness Day). Cash only please. All proceeds are being donated to Turtle Guardians.

Plant Pruning Presentation

When: Tuesday, Mar, 5, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center,
55 Parkside St. Minden
Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society for a presentation. Our guest speaker Tanya Smith will be reviewing 'Pruning'. This will be followed by the monthly society meeting. The associated Youth Garden Club will follow the meeting, running from 4 to 5 p.m.. The Youth Garden Club is for children in Grade 2 or higher that want to explore their interest in all things that grow.

HHOA Wild Game Dinner

When: Saturday, Mar. 23, bar opens 5 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Tickets for the Wild Game Dinner will be available for purchase on Feb. 15. $45 per person. To purchase tickets please call or visit Laurie at HHOA Tuesday and Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. 705-457-9664 or call Linda at 705-457-2064. Silent auction and 50/50 draw. For more information visit www.hhoa.on.ca



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Derek and Shirley Johannessen, “Working together is key.” / Photo submitted.

Left, Randy and Kari Upton /Submitted

Above, Brittany and Quinton /Submitted

Joe and Allison Cox by Larissa Ide /Submitted

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Winter motorheads fuel Minden's economic engine

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Shaun de Jager, a driving instructor for 17 years, shows off safe winter handling skills as taught at the ILR Car Control School in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

"Mother nature is not kind to us this year," says Ian Law, owner of ILR Car Control School, "it sucks, mother nature was late to us, bringing winter. Luckily, Minden Kin Club did a great job building us the track we have now."

Ironically, the ILR Car Control School had to cancel their first teaching sessions due to the sudden arrival of a winter storm.

Law, owner and chief instructor of the ILR Car Control School, first started teaching vehicle handling in the late 1980s. With a background in competition racing, Law knew that he wanted to share his passion for petrol with others. The school first started introducing drivers to the exciting world of competitive racing. Soon enough, interested parents approached him to teach their children better vehicle control.

The winter driving school stemmed from Law's years of experience driving in the ice races in Minden, with Law even having won a few ice racing championships.

"The car control school grew out of a competitive driving school," explains Law, "what do race car driver's do in the winter time?" We come up here and they race cars on ice. That in itself, was another skill that was learned and developed."

"With ice racing, you quickly learn what does not work." says Law with a grin, "because you end up in the snow banks."

ILR Car Control School's winter driving course has become immensely popular with corporations throughout Ontario, with clients ranging from federal government groups to private corporations.

"We have always liked to point out the irony of us training the M.T.O," says Law, "what it boils down to is the M.T.O. saying to us we recognize the employees aren't safe enough with the license that we give them, so you need to make them a safer driver."

Law was proud to explain the Car Control School's financial impact on the local Minden economy. The school encourages their students to book their stays locally at places such as the Red Umbrella Inn and the Dominion Hotel. Within their classroom, Law pointed out the trays of food catered by the Dominion Hotel.

"We like the idea that we can contribute something to the local economy," says Law with a smile, "we rent the track from the Kin club, so they make money off of us there, we rent this facility from the community centre. I think when we sat down to examine roughly how much we left each year, it is around $80,000 to $100,000 in business. We all feel good that we can contribute in some way to Minden's economic engine."

The ILR Driving School employs around 20 instructors at their school, with several of the instructors being residents of Haliburton County.

The ILR Driving School greatly appreciates being able to use their track in Minden and would like to request that snowmobiles stick to the trails to avoid accidents with inexperienced winter drivers.

While corporate teaching provides the bread and butter of the ILR Driving School, they continue to offer winter driving instructions to the public.

"Drivers are not as good as they think they are," assures Law, "there is so much information for those to understand. The driver's beginner education course is the minimal education for driving."

With clients such as the Ministry of Transportation and the 407 ETR, Law is confident in the school's ability to provide a driving education of high quality. The school would like the public to know that there are opportunities for drivers to gain more skills with driving in winter conditions, a skill that is often overestimated, according to Law.

For those interested in taking a course with ILR Driving School, you can email Ian Law at ianlaw@carcontrolschool.com.

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	8	1						
		6	5					8
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		5	1					
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								9
					6	7	4	
1		4	2		5			
2		9	7		3			

Level: Intermediate

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Answers on page 14

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How to be, that is the question…

ALBERTA IS the third province to pile on the wagon of ‘protecting’ parental rights by limiting those of children. In this case, they’re protecting children from exploring their gender orientation. And while I think that aspect of maturation has become over-articulated, incredibly complicated and commences way too far down the age range, I can’t think of a more foundational and personal aspect of who we are, or one more vulnerable to mismanagement.

FAY MARTIN

Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

We live in a patriarchal world: gender is hugely ‘marked’ – that’s a sociological term for how characteristics are ‘read’ by society, and the key to commerce. We sell clothes and cars and addresses and job titles and shoes and hair styles with the purpose of positioning oneself in society: that’s marked, that’s profit. That’s also misery and exclusion and systemic disadvantage.

So the gender spectrum has become the current dueling field for, on one hand, personal independence – ‘Don’t tell me who or what I am!’ – and on the other, patriarchal domination – ‘As long as you live under my roof, I’ll tell you who and what you are!’ (Okay, those are the tips of the spectrum, but you get my point.)

Government intrudes into this personal and domestic drama at its peril – or, as loading-on governments bet, its advantage – and in so doing tramples the most vulnerable. Naheed Nenshi, responding to Alberta Premier Danielle Smith’s announcement, nailed it. He said the evening it was announced, on Power and Politics, that the requirement that schools advise parents of a child’s wish to change pronouns put children at risk, because in what Smith called the ‘small minority’ (clearly not true since 2SLGBTQ+ youth are hugely over-represented in the homeless population) of situations in which parents react badly to this news, the child welfare system would protect them. Nenshi said (I couldn’t find verbatim), ‘Sure, maybe, after they’ve been beat up or kicked out ... or self harmed.’

I worked in this system for most of my professional career, and know he’s bang on: the child welfare system has to find proof that harm has been done, the investigation puts everyone at increased risk, and the system has a deplorable record of parenting children well, especially 2SLGBTQ+ kids. Furthermore, if the child is 16 when the system is alerted – the age, by the way, at which the Alberta law will allow use of pronouns of choice without parental permission – the child cannot be made a ward which would give them the rights of children to be protected, but instead offered a meagre menu of services. They languish in the legal no-man’s land between childhood and adulthood.

Aarrggh! What would good look like? CBC GEM offers three seasons of *Sort Of*, which comes very close. It portrays the journey of Sabi Mehboob, a ‘gender-fluid Millennial’, a first generation Canadian-born Pakistani who finds their messy, heart-breaking, soul-enriching way to being themselves. The cast involves the traditional Pakistani father who returns from abroad to discover that the son who used to sport a glossy beard and be a plumber is now bare-faced and wears weird dresses, his wife who is isolated in both cultures, and a daughter who is doing everything right but can’t get any recognition. It also involves a ‘downtown hipster family’ – therapist Caucasian father, entrepreneurial Asian mother who has a bike accident and is grievously injured, pre-adolescent children for whom Sabi is the nanny. It involves Sabi’s devoted, clever, outrageously lesbian friend 7ven; his appreciative employer at an 2SLGBTQ+ bar, who may or may not be a trans man; and later in the series, the boss’s straight (maybe) son. They are all bent, they are all loveable, the dialogue is delightful, the plot never ceases to surprise while being uncomfortably believable. Clearly there is not one pathway to the way it oughta be, and you might as well learn to enjoy the journey because the destination is hazy.

There are many memoirs out there about the trans journey. Elliot Page’s *Pageboy: A Memoir* was a best-seller, perhaps because we remember the actor as the pregnant teen in *Juno*; I found it so sharply sad I couldn’t finish reading it. Cooper Lee Bombardier’s *Pass With Care*, on the other hand, I found exceedingly instructive, because it is a collection of his writing at various steps in his transition and captured his angst, but also tracked his resilience and creativity in recreating himself. (He was my gifted teacher for awhile and after he’d outed himself by citing his book, I tried, with great difficulty, seeing beneath his full beard and flannel. Eventually I smacked myself up-side the head and paid attention to what was important, which was what he could teach.)

We are all complicated creatures in various stages of lifelong transformation. We owe it to ourselves and to others to be kind and supportive to the process. Legislation is a maul, a much-too-big hammer, for work of this delicacy. Butt out, governments.

Learning to love nature; offering outdoor skills to kids

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**

Times Staff

Learning the basics of being outdoors isn’t something reserved for backwoods campers and adventure enthusiasts anymore.

At Abbey Gardens, they believe that instilling basic skills for survival from a young age can boost and support kids’ confidence, development, and growth.

That’s why they’ve started offering their Naturally Kids Outdoor Skills programming, which kicked off the weekend of Jan. 27 and is running until May.

“These programs are great opportunities for kids to explore the natural world around them,” said Ashley McAllister, the director of operations at Abbey Gardens. “We want to be able to give them the tools to gain confidence, and maybe even find some new hobbies and skills along the way.”

The programs are led by outdoor enthusiast Rick Whitteker, who brings years of experience in teaching, guiding, and developing outdoor education programs at both Fleming College, as well as locally-based courses and training. “We wanted to develop programs for kids that would give them that life experience to keep them safe in whatever they’re doing,” he said.

Each week is split into a different theme, with everything from trailside cooking on a stick stove, to tarps, knots, and making cordage. While Whitteker developed the programming with actual outdoor skill development in mind, he also incorporated the wonder and imagination of kids by including courses on geocaching, photo scavenger hunts, and compass usage; all while teaching participants how to survive in the wilderness.

“I think we have a great facility for this type of programming at Abbey Gardens,” said McAllister. “There are tons of trails and mapped out regions of the property, but also lots of wooded areas that can offer the kids the feeling of really exploring the backwoods.”

Parents can register their kids for all four sessions, which occur once a month until the spring, or they can hand-pick a specific session based on the interest of the child. The sessions run once a month until May, with the exception of a March session due to conflicts with March Break programming.

For Whitteker, offering programming for kids between the ages of 8 to 12 is an opportunity to continue to share his love of the outdoors, and his passion for fostering an inclusive environment for people of all ages in the great outdoors.

“The reason I’m in this business is to try to keep people interested in being outside, and to learn and feel comfortable, even if they’re just camping with their parents,” he said. “If they have a few skills, then they’ll feel a lot more comfortable. They’ll feel ready.”

For more information on the Naturally Kids Outdoor Skills programming, or to register for upcoming programming, visit www.abbeygardens.ca.

The Naturally Kids Outdoor Skills programming is designed to teach kids the basics of outdoor navigation and survival, to allow them to feel safe and confident in the wilderness. /Photo submitted

Cupid's back!

Mostly Her owners Mary and Vanessa Douglas stop for a photo during the store's Cupid's Back Valentine's event on Thursday, Feb. 8. Intuitive sessions were offered by Danielle Martin from Shapeshifter Healing, and Boshkung Brewing served up food and drinks for shoppers. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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Taking control

Gavin McGahey-Smith takes control of the puck at the battle between the Huskies and the Royals on Saturday. The final score was 4-2 for the Royals. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

ACM makes moves

Dear Valued Members of the ACM Community,

It has been a while since we reached out and with such big things on our horizons, we couldn't think of a better time. We are thrilled to share some exciting news with all of you.

ACM Designs is embarking on a new chapter as we relocate our office to the Brewery at Abbey Gardens in Haliburton Highlands. This move marks a significant milestone in our journey, and we are excited to see where it takes us.

Our decision to move to Abbey Gardens stems from our deep commitment to community, a core value that has always been at the heart of ACM Designs. We want to express our sincere gratitude for being welcomed into the Abbey Gardens community with open arms. It warms our hearts to be part of a community that shares our values and actively contributes to the growth and development of Haliburton Highlands.

The move presents us with an opportunity to expand our business operations and focus on our bespoke offerings. The shop space we will have at Abbey Gardens will provide us with the necessary resources to participate in sustainable design and create custom and unique furniture that will become a part of the heritage in the cottages we design. Our time at 7 Dysart Ave. has been invaluable, providing us with the opportunity to grow our team. While we embark on this journey, we will maintain a smaller footprint at 7 Dysart Ave.

We want to thank our team for their hard work and dedication, our clients and partners for their trust and involvement, and Abbey Gardens for welcoming us into their community. It is because of you all that we have become the company that we are. This truly is a pivotal moment in our company's history. We look forward to our continued growth, success, and positive contributions that we will make together at our new home in Abbey Gardens.

Submitted by ACM Designs

THE TOWNSHIP OF
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Looking for an opportunity to serve your community or know someone who is?

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking residents to serve on the Committee of Adjustment for the 2024-2026 term.

Members will receive $100.00 for each regular meeting attended, plus an additional $10.00 per application, and are reimbursed for mileage associated with conducting site visits. Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the last Monday of each month.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

The Committee of Adjustment considers applications for minor variances from the Township's Zoning By-law as set out in the Planning Act. A minor variance may allow property owners to use their land in a way which does not comply exactly with the requirements of the Zoning By-Law.

The Committee of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body made up of citizen representatives appointed by Council. Decisions made by the Committee of Adjustment may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a resume and a cover letter to:

Clerk's Department
Committee of Adjustment Member
Township of Minden Hills
P.O. Box 359 - 7 Milne Street
Minden, ON., K0M 2K0
or by e-mail to:
sprentice@mindenhills.ca

Applications must be received by **Friday, February 23, 2024.**

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about the collection and use of this information should be directed to the Clerk, Vicki Bull, Township of Minden Hills, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0 (705) 286-1260 ext. 515.

YWCA seeks board directors, volunteers

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton is seeking volunteers to join the Board of Directors and Board committees.

"We are looking for volunteers who are passionate about women's issues and have the desire to be involved with an organization that provides life-saving programs, tools and resources that help women and children thrive. The YWCA plays a vital role in our community and its sustainability depends on women who will make impactful decisions in support of our mission: YWCA Peterborough Haliburton exists to help women and children in our communities live safely, eat well and know satisfaction and joy in their daily lives. We offer shelter, educational programming, counselling, and advocacy, in collaboration with the community and women themselves. The YWCA knows that its fiscal management, community reputation and most importantly, valued staff are the basis for these trusting relationships." - Sherri Ireland, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton Board President

«YWCA Peterborough Haliburton believes in diversity and continuously encourages women from all backgrounds and age groups to join our organization. As a learning board, we offer the opportunity to share our experience with those who may be new to Board governance. We know the value of having varied skill sets and experiences, and are particularly interested in the areas of nominating, finance, truth and reconciliation and governance. As an organization, we will always be committed to ensuring a diverse perspective, one that reflects the communities we serve.»

- Crystal Dudgeon, Nominating Committee Chair

If you are interested in an exciting volunteer opportunity and have between 6 – 12 hours a month to contribute, please submit your information through the online application.

Applications will be accepted until Monday, April 1, 2024.

Upon request, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton will provide reasonable accommodation for disabilities to support participation of candidates in all aspects of the recruitment process.

Submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

9	8	1	3	2	4	6	5	7
7	4	6	5	9	1	3	2	8
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8	9	7	4	3	2	5	6	1
4	1	3	6	5	8	2	7	9
5	3	8	9	1	6	7	4	2
1	7	4	2	8	5	9	3	6
2	6	9	7	4	3	8	1	5

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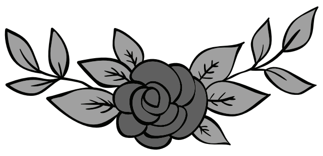

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In Loving Memory of

Barry Frederick Preston

Passed away at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 with his family by his side, at the age of 84.

Beloved husband of the late Joann Marjorie (nee Chillman)(2017). Loving father of Bill (Sophia) of London, Dan of Richmond Hill. Loving grandpa of Jessie, Tyler (Kaitlin), Sasha, Susanna, Evan and great grandpa of Zoey, T.J., Ruby. Dear brother of Ron (Judy) and uncle of Steven and Adam. Fondly remembered by his family and friends.

A service for Barry will be held at a later date. Spring interment at the Minden Cemetery

Memorial Donations to the Minden Food Bank would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Norma Jean Goodger

Passed away suddenly at the Haliburton Hospital, on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024, in her 75th year.

Predeceased by her parents Jean and Donald Goodger, her brother Brian, her partner of over 25 years Reta Kelly. Survived by Reta's Family, Micheal (Sandy), Christine (Al), Pat (Mike), Karen (deceased)(Oscar), grandchildren Kelly, Katie, Shelagh, Meghan, Sean, John, Stephen, Brad, and great Norma to 10 great grandchildren. Will be lovingly remembered by her dear friend Nina Harris and she will be missed by many.

After Retiring from Kids Can Press, Norma fulfilled her dream of living on Kushog Lake fulltime. She was the past president and founding member of Kushog Lake Property Owners Association, member of Minden Pride, the Stanhope Museum, and Highlands Festival Singers.

A Celebration of Norma's Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to Minden Pride (cheques only) or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

With Heartfelt Sympathy

660 CARD OF THANKS

Thank you

to all the Community Care personnel, doctors, nurses, paramedics and hospital staff of the Haliburton Hospital who cared for **Carol Bradimore** over the past few months.

The kind and gentle care you provided Carol was incredible and was very much appreciated by her family and friends.

The warmth and compassion you showed to Carol and her family were second to none, making her last days more comfortable for everyone.

Thank you all again,
Cara, Peer, Mark, Kelly and family

Thank You

The family of the late **Junior Barry** wants to thank our family and friends who were there for us. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the nurses and staff of Extendicare Haliburton for the 4 1/2 years of dedicated care who worked tirelessly looking after Junior. Also, we want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, visits and donations to Extendicare, Lorraine's Florist for the beautiful arrangement, and Dollo's Foodland who provided the great lunch. Last but not least Monk's Funeral Home; Barry, Kirsten and Mac for all their expert service.

Thanks again,
Lois Ann & Family

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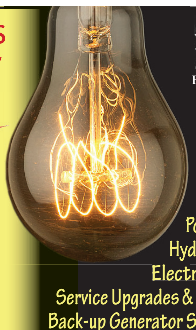

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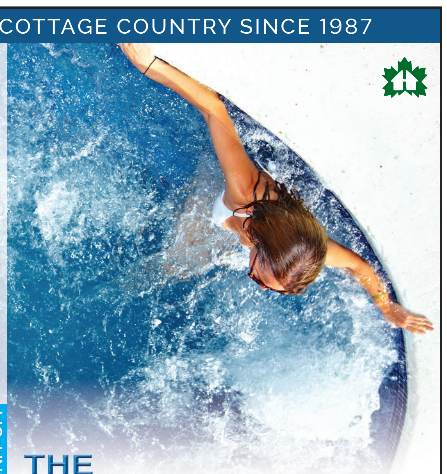

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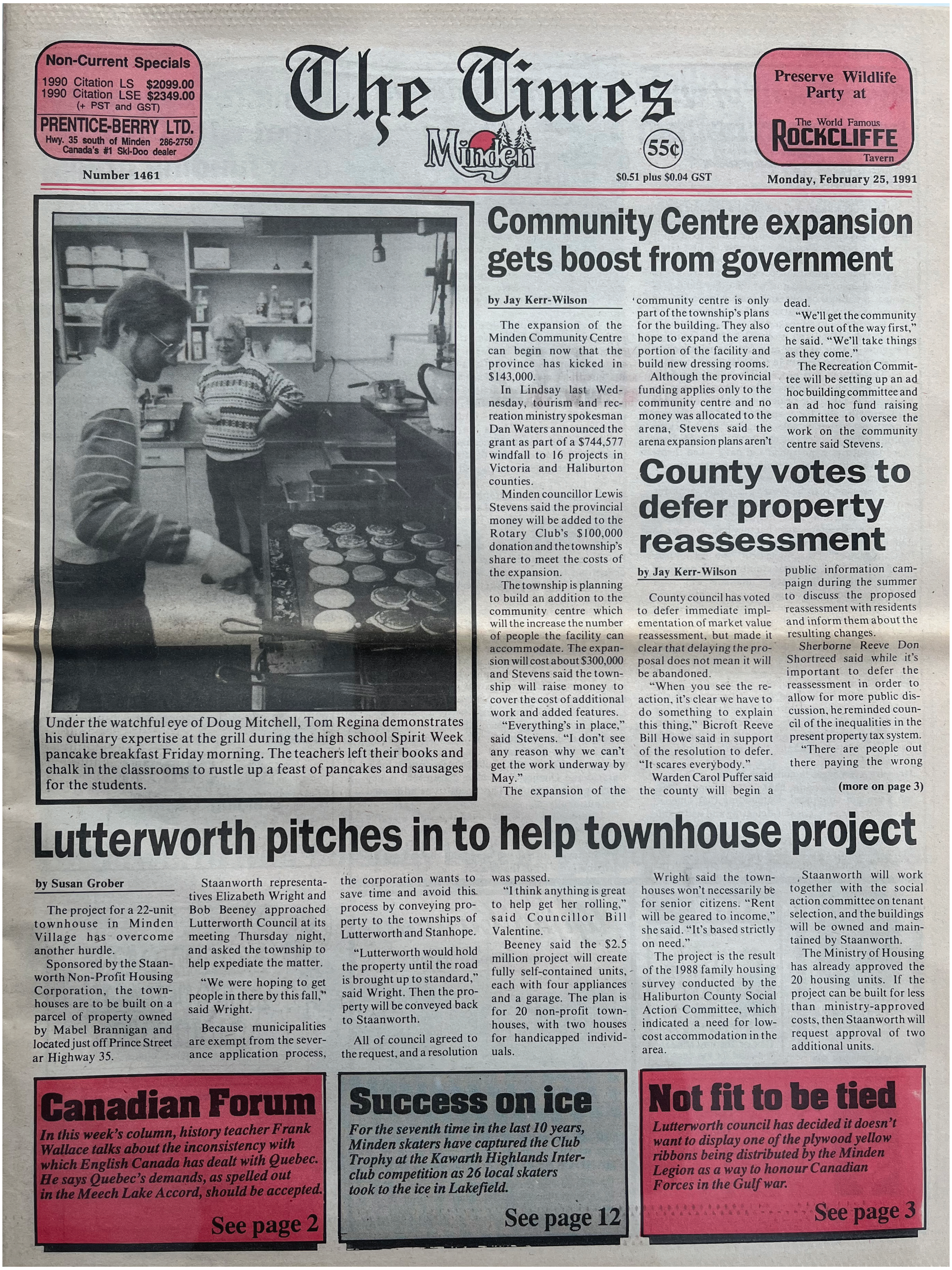

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Under the watchful eye of Doug Mitchell, Tom Regina demonstrates his culinary expertise at the grill during the high school Spirit Week pancake breakfast Friday morning. The teachers left their books and chalk in the classrooms to rustle up a feast of pancakes and sausages for the students.

Community Centre expansion gets boost from government

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The expansion of the Minden Community Centre can begin now that the province has kicked in $143,000.

In Lindsay last Wednesday, tourism and recreation ministry spokesman Dan Waters announced the grant as part of a $744,577 windfall to 16 projects in Victoria and Haliburton counties.

Minden councillor Lewis Stevens said the provincial money will be added to the Rotary Club's $100,000 donation and the township's share to meet the costs of the expansion.

The township is planning to build an addition to the community centre which will the increase the number of people the facility can accommodate. The expansion will cost about $300,000 and Stevens said the township will raise money to cover the cost of additional work and added features.

"Everything's in place," said Stevens. "I don't see any reason why we can't get the work underway by May."

The expansion of the community centre is only part of the township's plans for the building. They also hope to expand the arena portion of the facility and build new dressing rooms.

Although the provincial funding applies only to the community centre and no money was allocated to the arena, Stevens said the arena expansion plans aren't dead.

"We'll get the community centre out of the way first," he said. "We'll take things as they come."

The Recreation Committee will be setting up an ad hoc building committee and an ad hoc fund raising committee to oversee the work on the community centre said Stevens.

County votes to defer property reassessment

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

County council has voted to defer immediate implementation of market value reassessment, but made it clear that delaying the proposal does not mean it will be abandoned.

"When you see the reaction, it's clear we have to do something to explain this thing," Bicroft Reeve Bill Howe said in support of the resolution to defer. "It scares everybody."

Warden Carol Puffer said the county will begin a public information campaign during the summer to discuss the proposed reassessment with residents and inform them about the resulting changes.

Sherborne Reeve Don Shortreed said while it's important to defer the reassessment in order to allow for more public discussion, he reminded council of the inequalities in the present property tax system.

"There are people out there paying the wrong

(more on page 3)

Lutterworth pitches in to help townhouse project

by Susan Grober

The project for a 22-unit townhouse in Minden Village has overcome another hurdle.

Sponsored by the Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, the townhouses are to be built on a parcel of property owned by Mabel Brannigan and located just off Prince Street ar Highway 35.

Staanworth representatives Elizabeth Wright and Bob Beeney approached Lutterworth Council at its meeting Thursday night, and asked the township to help expediate the matter.

"We were hoping to get people in there by this fall," said Wright.

Because municipalities are exempt from the severance application process, the corporation wants to save time and avoid this process by conveying property to the townships of Lutterworth and Stanhope.

"Lutterworth would hold the property until the road is brought up to standard," said Wright. Then the property will be conveyed back to Staanworth.

All of council agreed to the request, and a resolution was passed.

"I think anything is great to help get her rolling," said Councillor Bill Valentine.

Beeney said the $2.5 million project will create fully self-contained units, each with four appliances and a garage. The plan is for 20 non-profit townhouses, with two houses for handicapped individuals.

Wright said the townhouses won't necessarily be for senior citizens. "Rent will be geared to income," she said. "It's based strictly on need."

The project is the result of the 1988 family housing survey conducted by the Haliburton County Social Action Committee, which indicated a need for low-cost accommodation in the area.

Staanworth will work together with the social action committee on tenant selection, and the buildings will be owned and maintained by Staanworth.

The Ministry of Housing has already approved the 20 housing units. If the project can be built for less than ministry-approved costs, then Staanworth will request approval of two additional units.

Canadian Forum

In this week's column, history teacher Frank Wallace talks about the inconsistency with which English Canada has dealt with Quebec. He says Quebec's demands, as spelled out in the Meech Lake Accord, should be accepted.

See page 2

Success on ice

For the seventh time in the last 10 years, Minden skaters have captured the Club Trophy at the Kawarth Highlands Interclub competition as 26 local skaters took to the ice in Lakefield.

See page 12

Not fit to be tied

Lutterworth council has decided it doesn't want to display one of the plywood yellow ribbons being distributed by the Minden Legion as a way to honour Canadian Forces in the Gulf war.

See page 3

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